

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

MAY 29, 2007

The County's Commission on Human Relations is recommending the appointment of Ray W. Bartlett as an Honorary Member of the Commission. Ray W. Bartlett recently retired after serving 27 years as an esteemed member of the Commission, making him the longest-serving Commissioner in the history of the Commission on Human Relations. He was appointed in 1980 by Supervisor Warren Dorn and reappointed by subsequent Supervisors ever since.

During his extended tenure on the Commission, Ray Bartlett has served with distinction, including as Commission President. He was an active member on every committee at one time or another, had an excellent attendance record, even with health challenges, and was appreciated by his colleagues for his "no-nonsense" approach to matters.

Throughout his lifetime, Ray W. Bartlett has been an advocate for civil and human rights, no matter the race, gender, or religion. His anti-racism consciousness was evident even when he was a young man growing up in Pasadena. In 1950, at age 19, Ray Bartlett volunteered at the Pasadena YMCA, when African-Americans were not allowed to become members. He also gave 35 years of military service to the U.S. Army and received several commendation medals, overcoming the racially discriminatory policies and practices in place during the early years.

Ray W. Bartlett grew up in Pasadena with the legendary Jackie Robinson who broke major league baseball's color barrier. He and Jackie Robinson played football at Pasadena City College, leading the team to an undefeated season in 1938. They are among the original group of athletes inducted into the California Community Colleges Hall of Fame. They both attended UCLA, where they were All-American football stars, and two of the few to ever play all four of the major sports (football, basketball, baseball, and track). He later attended graduate school in public administration at USC.

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- PAGE 2 -

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Ray W. Bartlett has consistently worked on behalf of racial justice and equality. He was a volunteer in the community for many years, served on many boards, including as President of the Pasadena YMCA Board of Directors, and was a distinguished Pasadena Police detective for 20 years. Of the many honors and awards he has received, one the highlights was being selected to serve as the Grand Marshall of the Rose Parade in 1999.

Pursuant to Title 2 of the County Code, Chapter 2.78.020, the Board has the authority to appoint a maximum of four honorary nonvoting members of the Commission. There are currently only two honorary members as defined by the Code: Catherine G. Stern and Philip R. Valera. (Rabbi Alfred Wolf and Morris Kight, who were both appointed to be honorary members, have since passed away.) The Commissioners would like to honor Ray W. Bartlett's lifetime commitment to human relations by having him join the esteemed group of honorary members of the Commission. Ray W. Bartlett would be the first African American appointed to this position of honor.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors support the recommendation of the County's Commission on Human Relations and appoint Ray W. Bartlett as an Honorary Member of the Commission effective immediately.

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MDA:apsc